

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Chapter 58 19 89

Bill H 180 S _____

Original bill & history ✓c

H. Committee on Local Gov.

Hearing Date(s) 1-24 ✓c

_____ c

_____ c

_____ c

Date Out _____ c

S. Committee on Local Gov

Hearing Date(s) 2-14 ✓c

2-15 ✓c

_____ c

_____ c

Did this bill originate in an interim committee? ____ Yes ____ No

Committee _____

Report _____

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 180
2 INTRODUCED BY Hager
3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ELIMINATING THE
5 REQUIREMENT THAT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF
6 THE COUNTY ATTORNEY PRIOR TO EMPLOYING ANOTHER ATTORNEY TO
7 PERFORM CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES; AND AMENDING SECTION 7-4-2708,
8 MCA."
9

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11 **Section 1.** Section 7-4-2708, MCA, is amended to read:

12 "7-4-2708. Contract for services of any other
13 attorney. In any county, the county commissioners may, upon
14 consent of the county attorney, employ any other attorney
15 licensed in Montana to perform any legal service in
16 connection with the civil business of the county."

-End-

INTRODUCED BILL
HB 180

HOUSE FINAL STATUS

1/16	REFERRED TO JUDICIARY		
1/31	HEARING		
1/31	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL PASSED		
2/02	2ND READING PASSED	85	10
2/04	3RD READING PASSED	88	8

	TRANSMITTED TO SENATE		
2/06	REFERRED TO JUDICIARY		
3/02	HEARING		
3/03	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL NOT CONCURRED		
3/03	ADVERSE COMMITTEE REPORT ADOPTED	37	6

HB 180 INTRODUCED BY HANNAH, ET AL.
AUTHORIZE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO EMPLOY
ATTORNEY FOR CIVIL BUSINESS

1/14	INTRODUCED		
1/16	REFERRED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
1/24	HEARING		
1/25	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL PASSED		
1/28	2ND READING PASSED	89	6
1/31	3RD READING PASSED	94	3

	TRANSMITTED TO SENATE		
2/02	REFERRED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
2/14	HEARING		
2/15	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL CONCURRED		
2/28	2ND READING CONCURRED	30	11
3/02	3RD READING CONCURRED	33	16

	RETURNED TO HOUSE		
3/04	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		
3/04	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
3/06	TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR		
3/10	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR		
	CHAPTER NUMBER 58 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/89		

HB 181 INTRODUCED BY DAILY, ET AL.
ESTABLISH METHOD TO APPROPRIATE COAL TAX PROCEEDS
AND TRUST FUND EARNINGS FOR SCHOOLS

1/14	INTRODUCED		
1/16	REFERRED TO TAXATION		
1/24	HEARING		
3/08	TABLED IN COMMITTEE		

HB 182 INTRODUCED BY QUILICI, ET AL.
PROVIDE FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF CITY STREET UPON 50%
LOT OWNER PETITION AND COUNCIL VOTE

1/14	INTRODUCED		
1/16	REFERRED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
1/24	HEARING		
1/25	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL PASSED AS AMENDED		
1/28	2ND READING PASSED	93	2
1/31	3RD READING PASSED	95	1

	TRANSMITTED TO SENATE		
2/02	REFERRED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
2/14	HEARING		

STATUS SHEET

51st LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Local Government

COMMITTEE

BILL NUMBER	ENTERED COM. DATE	DATE CON- SIDERED	OUT OF COM.	DO PASS DATE	DO NOT PASS DATE	DO PASS AS AMENDED DATE	DO NOT PASS AS AMENDED DATE	BE CON- CURRED IN DATE	BE NOT CON- CURRED IN DATE	BE CON- CURRED IN AMENDED DATE	BE NOT CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED DATE
HB175	1/16/89	1/19/89	1/19/89			1/19/89					
HB176	1/16/89	1/19/89	1/19/89		1/19/89						
HB180	1/16/89	1/24/89	1/24/89	1/24/89							
HB182	1/16/89	1/24/89	1/24/89		1/24/89						
HB183	1/16/89	1/24/89	1/24/89	1/24/89							
HB205	1/17/89	1/24/89	1/24/89		1/24/89						
HB237	1/18/89	1/26/89	1/26/89	1/26/89							
HB244	1/18/89	1/26/89	2/7/89	2/7/89	5 th I						
HB261	1/18/89	1/26/89	2/9/89	TABLED							
HB315	1/23/89	1/31/89		TABLED	-1/31/89						
HB338	1/23/89	1/31/89		TABLED	1/31/89						
HB340	1/23/89	1/31/89	1/31/89			1/31/89	referred				
HB366	1/24/89	1/31/89	1/31/89	1/31/89							
HB372	1/25/89	2/2/89	2/7/89	2/7/89							

Use a separate sheet for Senate Bills, House Bills, and Resolutions.

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: By Chairman Darko, on January 24, 1989, at
2:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: All except:

Members Excused: McDonough, Johnson, Rehberg, Wallin

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lee Heiman, Legislative Counsel

Announcements/Discussion: Chairman Darko reported that
Executive Action on HB 148 will not be taken because
Rep. Rehberg still has some concerns. HB 105 is still
in sub-committee.

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 183

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor: Rep. Roth,
District 96, stated that this bill would increase the
number of days from 40 to 120 days in which the county
has to prepare the financial statements at the end of
the year. The financial condition and growth of the
counties make it difficult to prepare the statement.
He also suggested that an amendment be made giving
them 90 which more than doubles the time they are
given at present.

List of Testifying Proponents and What Group They Represent:

Linda Stoll Anderson, Montana Association of Counties

List of Testifying Opponents and What Group They Represent:

None

Testimony:

Linda Stoll Anderson, stated that the bill would give the
counties the same amount of time that is presently

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 182

Motion: Rep. Hansen moved that HB 182 DO PASS. Rep. Gould seconded.

Discussion: Rep. Hansen moved to amend by striking "more than 50%" and putting in "51%". Rep. Gould seconded. Mr. Heiman did not think the amendment was necessary since more than 50% means there would be a majority. Rep. Hansen withdrew her motion to amend. Rep. Gould gave his permission to withdraw since he had seconded it. Rep. Good was not happy with 50% and suggested 75% would be better. Rep. Hoffman concurs and would like it even higher to protect the minorities that bought property with certain amenities. Rep. Hansen supported Rep. Good's motion but does not think the minority should be able to control the outcome. Chairman Darko pointed out that the majority vote of the council is also necessary. Rep. Good stated that some communities have councils that are elected at large. Rep. Nelson asked for clarification about the motion - does it continue the "more than"? The amendment will continue to read as such. Rep. Stickney pointed out that it is very hard to get 100% concurrence on any issue and felt that 75% was more attainable.

Amendments and Votes: Rep. Good moved to amend from "50" to read "75". Rep. Wyatt seconded. The motion CARRIED with Rep. Gould, Rep. Wallin and Rep. Hoffman voting against the amendment.

Discussion: Rep. Hoffman moved for another amendment changing "council" to "governing body". Mr. Heiman pointed out that this bill only applies to city streets. Mr. Hoffman withdrew the motion.

Recommendation and Vote: Rep. Hansen moved DO PASS AS AMENDED. Rep. Gould seconded. The motion CARRIED with Reps. Wallin, Hoffman and Wyatt voting "nay".

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 180

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor: Rep. Tom Hannah, District 86, stated that this bill removes the requirement that the county commissioners receive permission from the county attorney to hire an attorney for some legal work. He believes that it would give the county commissioners more control and flexibility on legal advice they may do so.

List of Testifying Proponents and What Group They Represent:

Gordon Morris, Montana Association of Counties

List of Testifying Opponents and What Group They Represent:

John Connor, Department of Justice, Montana County
Attorneys' Association

Testimony:

Gordon Morris expressed his support of this bill by way of adopting a resolution. The association adopted a resolution supporting this bill also. The statutes presently provide that Class 2 through 7 counties can hire outside counsel. This bill would enable 1st class counties to do so also.

John Connor opposed this bill because it is not conducive to good government. The statutes presently provide that the county attorney give his written opinion to the county commissioners. If the bill is passed and the county commissioners do not like the opinion they will simply find someone to give them the opinion they are seeking. It would create legal havoc within the county. He disagrees with Mr. Morris "vociferously". He believes that good government warrants a unified approach to representation of the county through one entity only - the one created by statute, the county attorney. An Attorney General's opinion states that a county attorney may not unreasonably withhold his consent of the employment of another attorney by the Board of County Commissioners to perform legal services in connection with the legal business of the county. The decision to withhold is subject to the supervisory authority of the Attorney General.

Questions From Committee Members:

Rep. Good asked Mr. Morris why Class 1 counties were excluded in the first place. Mr. Morris was unsure unless it was because they are the more urban.

Rep. Hansen asked Mr. Connor if the Class 1 county attorneys were so busy that they do not have time to address all issues and what if the county attorney refuses as he did in Missoula where he was asked to defend 2 commissioners against another commissioner. Mr. Connor stated that the county attorney must have a

valid reason. They do believe that the county attorney should be a part of the decision to retain outside counsel. The Attorney General's opinion would come into play and the Attorney General could order the county attorney to represent the county.

Rep. Hoffman asked Mr. Connor about a conflict of interest when the county attorney is representing two different county entities. Mr. Connor felt that at that point the county attorney would defend the commission first and other subdivisions of the county secondly.

Closing by Sponsor: Rep. Hannah felt that the bill was making the authority of Class 1 counties consistent with other counties. It would help develop good government. Civil cases take back seat to criminal cases and county attorneys will not promote the use of outside attorneys because of cost. There has not been havoc in the lower class counties and he saw no reason that it would create havoc in Class 1. They simply want the same statutory authority that other counties have.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 180

Motion: Rep. Gould moved DO PASS. Rep. Nelson seconded.

Discussion: None

Amendments and Votes: None

Recommendation and Vote: HB 180 recommended DO PASS with Rep. Hoffman opposing.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 3:58 p.m.



REP. PAULA DARKO, Chairman

PD/TD

2011.MIN

COMMITTEE

Date 1/24/89

[illegible]

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 24, 1989

Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker: We, the committee on Local Government report that
House Bill 180 (first reading copy -- white) Go pass .

Signed: _____
Paula Darko, Chairman

Local Government COMMITTEE

DATE _____

DATE _____

[illegible]

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR WITNESS STATEMENT FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.

CHAIRMAN--ETHEL HARDING
SECRETARY--DOLORES HARRIS
NORMAL SCHEDULE==> SITE: ROOM 405COMMITTEE--(S) LOCAL GOVERNMENT
DAYS: T,TH,S TIME: 1:00 P.M.

OFFICE--ROOM 440

REFER

NOTE: BILL WILL BE LISTED TWICE IF REREFERRED BACK TO THE SAME COMMITTEE

BILL	DATE	LATEST DATE/ACTION ON BILL	
HB 60	01/25	04/24--(H) SIGNED BY GOVERNOR SPONSOR: HARRINGTON, DAN	TITLE-QUALIFICATIONS AND CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY ASSESSORS
HB 62	01/19	03/18--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: HANSON, MARIAN	TITLE-REQUIRE AUDITS OF CEMETERY DISTRICTS EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/18/89
HB 67	01/17	02/10--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: HANSEN, STELLA JEAN	TITLE-ENTRY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING MUNICIPAL BUDGET IN OFFICIAL MINUTES OF COUNCIL EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/89
HB 79	01/21	02/24--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: DEBRUYCKER, ROGER	TITLE-ALLOW COMBINED BRIDGE AND FERRY FUND IN COUNTIES WITH PUBLIC FERRY EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/89
HB 84	02/28	04/03--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: HANSEN, STELLA JEAN	TITLE-PERMIT EITHER POSTING OR PUBLISHING OF BOND ELECTION NOTICES EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/89
HB 85	01/18	02/10--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: HANSEN, STELLA JEAN	TITLE-CHANGE METHOD OF SETTING DATE AND PLACE OF BID OPENING EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/89
HB 121	01/26	03/13--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: WALLIN, NORM	TITLE-FIRE SERVICE AREA OPERATIONS--ENTER PROPERTY TO FIGHT FIRES, ELECT TRUSTEES EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/89
HB 175	01/26	03/14--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: HANSEN, STELLA JEAN	TITLE-AUTHORIZE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPOSITS IN ANY STATE BANK, S&L, OR CREDIT UNION EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/89
HB 180	02/02	03/10--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: HANNAH, TOM	TITLE-AUTHORITY FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO EMPLOY ATTORNEY FOR CIVIL BUSINESS EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/89
HB 182	02/02	03/13--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: QUILICI, JOE	TITLE-DISCONTINUANCE OF CITY STREET UPON 75% LOT OWNER PETITION AND COUNCIL VOTE EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/89
HB 183	02/02	03/20--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: ROTH, RANDE	TITLE-INCREASE TIME FOR COUNTY CLERK TO MAKE ANNUAL COUNTY FINANCIAL STATEMENT EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/89
HB 201	02/04	03/24--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: SPAETH, GARY	TITLE-ALLOW JP OR OTHER CITY JUDGE TO BE APPOINTED CITY JUDGE OF TOWN OR 3RD-CITY EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/89
HB 205	02/16	04/24--TABLED IN COMMITTEE SPONSOR: STANG, SPOOK	TITLE-AUTHORIZE CREATION OF STREET MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS BY COUNTIES
HB 214	02/02	03/13--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: SMITH, CLYDE	TITLE-ALLOW REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE TO RECEIVE SILICOSIS BENEFITS FOR CLAIMANT EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/89
HB 237	02/04	03/13--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: NELSON, RICHARD	TITLE-ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK TO NOTICE IN PAPER OF WIDEST CIRCULATION EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/89
HB 242	02/02	03/23--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER SPONSOR: COBB, JOHN	TITLE-REVISE AND CLARIFY THE LAWS RELATING TO PUBLIC ASSISTANCE EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/89
HB 244	03/08	03/23--(S) ADVERSE COM RPT ADOPTED SPONSOR: SWIFT, BERNIE	(S) LOCAL GOVERNMENT TITLE-PROTECTION OF SHOOTING RANGES
HB 291	02/28	04/24--TABLED IN COMMITTEE SPONSOR: THOMAS, FRED	TITLE-STATE TO PAY MEDICAL EXPENSES OF PRISONERS CONFINED TO COUNTY JAILS
HB 292	02/08	03/23--(H) CHAPTER NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/89

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Call to Order: By Chairman /Ethel M. Harding, on February 14, 1989, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 405, State Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Senators Ethel Harding, Vice Chairman
Bruce D. Crippen, R.J. "Dick" Pinsoneault, Tom Beck,
Eleanor Vaughn, H.W. "Swede" Hammond, Mike Walker, Gene
Thayer

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: Senator Paul Boylan

Staff Present: Connie Erickson, Legislative Council;
Dolores Harris, Committee Secretary

Announcements/Discussion: None

HEARING ON SENATE BILL 393

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor: Senator J. D. Lynch, senate district 24, Butte, Silver Bow, stated SB 393 is an act clarifying legislative immunity. We didn't include actions that go beyond their legislative duties. Wrongful discharge is one. No one should be above the law and that is basically what this bill states.

List of Testifying Proponents and What Group they Represent:

Michael Sherwood, M.L.A.
Nadlean Jensen, AFSCME

List of Testifying Opponents and What Group They Represent:

Earl W. Bennett, Flathead County
Howard W. Gipe, Flathead County
Gordon Morris, MACO
Leroy Schramm, Legal Council of Montana Board of Regents

Testimony:

be best. Senator Crippen asked about 10 owners with 1 owner owning 75% of the property and the other 9 own 25%, what then. Senator Harding stated that the county attorney from Butte stated that the 75% is the same qualification as closing streets for the school statute. She sees this problem in her area also. The House changed this to 75% and debated it. Senator Thayer suggested we put it back to 50%. Senator Beck asked about a public hearing. C. Erickson said there is a public hearing notice. Senator Thayer stated in bigger cities it's very difficult to close streets and alleys.

Amendments and Votes: Senator Thayer MOVED that we AMEND HB 182 back to 50%. The VOTE was UNANIMOUS in FAVOR of this MOTION.

Recommendation and Vote: Senator Walker MOVED we DO CONCUR IN HB 182 AS AMENDED. The VOTE was UNANIMOUS in FAVOR of this MOTION

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 180

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Representative Tom Hannah, house district 86, Billings stated HB 180 allows county commissioners of class 1 counties to hire an attorney to perform civil legal services. Counties classed 2 - 7 can do this now. This will allow the county commissioners to hire an attorney and pay him from the general fund without the consent of the county attorney.

List of Testifying Proponents and What Group they Represent:

Gordon Morris, MACO
Howard W. Gipe
Alfred Kaschuhe, Roosevelt County

List of Testifying Opponents and What Group They Represent:

None

Testimony:

Gordon Morris stated this give commissioners authority to retain civil counsel for purposes of advising the board and other portions of the county government, and relieving the county attorney from that responsibility. This bill is a result of a MACO resolution 88-13 that was passed last June 15, 1988. I ask your favorable consideration.

Questions From Committee Members: Senator Crippen asked if the county attorney in class 1 counties can have private clients? In counties that do not employ a full time county attorney, that would be counties with a low population, allows county attorneys to have private clients. Senator Crippen said that would give you the rationale that county commissioners could hire an attorney without the county commissioners permission, because of smaller counties having potential conflicts of interest.

Senator Crippen asked if the county attorney is the chief legal officer of the county? Gordon Morris responded that the county attorney is statutorily charged with being the chief legal counsel for the county in terms of civil matters and that includes all the extensions of the county as well as the commissioners. More and more counties are retaining deputy civil county attorneys, understanding that the county attorney is first and foremost the prosecuting attorney. Senator Crippen asked why commissioners would want to hire someone without the consent of the county attorney? Gordon Morris answered this bill is not covering a problem between the commissioners and the attorney. It is primarily to lift the work load from the attorney. County attorneys are not well versed in county government, county budget law, and county finances. They are primarily prosecutors.

Senator Beck asked if Yellowstone County in particular wanted to hire legal counsel. Rep. Hannah responded that Yellowstone County would use more legal counsel. Their county attorney is overworked and the commissioners are looking for help with other issues. Yellowstone County wants to be able to do this on a need basis. Senator Beck asked if there is a potential for conflict? Rep. Hannah said he thought there is a possibility of that, but that is not what is driving this bill.

Senator Harding stated that in Lake County the commissioners would get frustrated when the county attorney was so busy with criminal matters that they couldn't get an audience with him. The intent of the bill is to get legal counsel for the commissioners when the county attorney is too busy.

Senator Hammond asked how counties are classified. Gordon Morris stated county classification is based solely on taxable value. Salaries are built both on taxable valuation and population. Senator Pinsoneault stated

that traditionally the county attorney spoke for everyone. In Ravalli County the county attorney does all the civil work and hires out the criminal. In Lake County we have a full time attorney for civil matters and a full time attorney for criminal matters.

Closing by Sponsor: Representative Hammond stated the bill has been well discussed and this bill will be helpful to class 1 counties to have another option.

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 180

Discussion: Chairman Harding asked if there is a Senator willing to carry the bill to the floor? Rep. Hannah stated Senator McLane will carry HB 180.

Amendments and Votes: None

Recommendation and Vote: Senator Hammond MOVED that we DO CONCUR in HB 180. The VOTE was 8 for and Senator Crippen voted NO. VOTE CARRIED 8 to 1.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 119

Discussion: Chairman Harding stated SB 119 was sponsored by her and she talked with Dwayne Robertson and he stated that HB 111 had been amended and had a much lower price tag. It goes from \$.50 to \$.85 instead of \$.50 to \$1.10. He thinks HB 111 will pass and this bill would work in conjunction with it, so asked that we pass SB 119 out of committee.

Amendments and Votes: Connie Erickson presented the amendments that were requested during the hearing. They are as follows: On Page 2, line 2 strike: "and" and insert: "or". On page 2, line 13 following line 12 insert: "NEW SECTION Section 3. Coordination instruction. Unless House Bill No. 111 (LC 535) is passed and approved, (this act) is void."

Renumber: subsequent section

Senator Beck MOVED that we ACCEPT THE AMENDMENT as stated. The VOTE was UNANIMOUS in FAVOR of the amendments.

Recommendation and Vote: Senator Vaughn MOVED that we DO PASS AS AMENDED SB 119. MOTION CARRIED with 8 voting for and Senator Beck OPPOSED.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 62

Discussion: Representative Hanson's HB 62 was brought back

ROLL CALL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

COMMITTEE

51th LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1989

Date 2-14-1989

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Sen. Ethel Harding	X		
Sen. R.J. "Dick" Pinsoneault	X		
Sen. Tom Beck	X		
Sen. Eleanor Vaughn	X		
Sen. H.W. "Swede" Hammond	X		
Sen. Mike Walker	X		
Sen. Gene Thayer	X		
Sen. Paul Boylan		X	
Sen. Bruce D. Crippen	X		

Each day attach to minutes.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

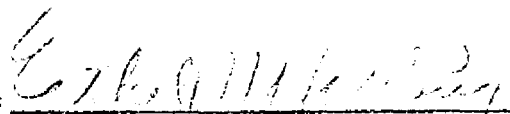
February 15, 1989

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Local Government, having had under consideration HB 180 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that HB 180 be concurred in.

Sponsor: Hannah (McLane)

BE CONCURRED IN

Signed: 

Ethel M. Harding, Chairman